



Proposed Services & Rates Model - We Want Your Feedback

ICN has announced the proposed services and rates as a result of the fiber network. ICN is also recommending a new methodology for allocating the state funding provided to off-set bandwidth costs for schools, libraries, higher education, and museums.

The fiber network allows an expanded service offering which includes point-to-point on-net connections and dark fiber. The point-to-point on-net connections are a perfect solution for ICN customers who need to interconnect multiple campuses. K12 schools purchasing services from the Illini Cloud could also benefit from the point-to-point service connecting their district to the Illini Cloud network. Dark fiber will be available for lease along the new construction routes. These expanded service options will be important to our new customer base of wholesale and third party providers which will help expand broadband services across the state. Your RTC offices will be able to provide detailed information on the different service options.

Along with the release of the new proposed services and rates we are proposing a new methodology for allocating the state funding for education, library and museum constituents. The allocation model provides our traditional education, library and museum constituents with credits which may be used to purchase bandwidth. An explanation of the new methodology is posted on the ICN website at www.illinois.net/services. We have attempted to explain the proposed rates and funding allocation model and RTC staff are prepared to provide further clarification, should you have additional questions.

The ICN Policy Committee has requested a comment period for the proposed state funding allocation methodology prior to their final approval. Please send your comments to cms.bccs.icn@illinois.gov by April 30, 2012. We will share your feedback with the Policy Committee and ask for approval at the July 16, 2012 meeting. The new rates and state funding allocation would be implemented July 1, 2013 when the fiber network is fully operational.



ICN has signed orders for all ten construction packages. The vendors have started work on six of the packages with the remaining four scheduled to begin in the next few weeks.

The biggest challenges for the construction schedule is long delivery times for fiber cabling and securing more than 400 permits from various state and local governments as well as railroads and pipelines. The fiber cabling delivery has been factored into the construction schedule and about two-thirds of the permits have been secured.

ICN is working with the construction vendors to prioritize the outstanding permits to minimize delays on the construction schedule.

ILLINOIS GIGABIT COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE



In January, Governor Pat Quinn announced this bold competition that will award up to \$4 million in prize funding to the most promising ultra high-speed broadband deployment projects in Illinois. **Applications are due Friday, May 4, 2012.**

The premise is simple: submit a viable plan to deliver gigabit-speed broadband service to at least 1,000 end-users in any Illinois community. Any entity is eligible to apply. With the exception of a few basic guidelines, the design and implementation plan for each project is at the creative discretion of the community applicant. Funded through the *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital construction bill and administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO), this opportunity is part of the Governor's larger commitment to accelerate investment in world-class broadband networks across Illinois.

Please visit www.gigabit.illinois.gov often for the latest updates about this exciting competition! Thank you for your support.